Resolution XIX-19

IOC and UNCLOS

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission,

Having examined the Summary Report of the First Session of the open-ended Intersessional Working Group on IOC's Possible Role in Relation to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (IOC-LOS), endorsed by the 29th Executive Council,

Endorses the above-mentioned Summary Report;

Recognizes the value of having an advisory mechanism on the possible implementation of the recommendations and proposals included in the above-mentioned Summary Report:

Decides therefore to establish an open-ended Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea (ABE-LOS), to work in accordance with the terms of reference contained in the Annex to this Resolution:

Invites interested Member States to designate a maximum of two experts to the ABE-LOS, taking into account the need for an adequate balance in the membership of the ABE-LOS between experts with training in the Law of the Sea and experts with training in marine sciences, preferably familiar with IOC activities and programmes.

Annex to Resolution XIX.19

Terms of Reference for the Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea (ABE-LOS)

1. The ABE-LOS shall provide advice upon request to the IOC Assembly, Executive Council and/or Executive Secretary IOC on the possible implementation of the proposals and recommendations included in the Summary Report of the First Session of the open-ended Intersessional Working Group on IOC's Possible Role in Relation to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (IOC-LOS) (Document IOC/INF-1 035).

2. The ABE-LOS shall take into account:

   (i) The purpose and functions established by the IOC Statutes and Rules of Procedure:
(ii) The rights and duties of the coastal States as stipulated in UNCLOS

(iii) Other applicable provisions of UNCLOS related to marine scientific research;

(iv) The role of the bodies established under UNCLOS:

(v) The need to co-ordinate efforts with other relevant bodies in the United Nations system and/or other relevant international organizations.

3. The bulk of the Advisory Body's work shall be done by correspondence, co-ordinated by the Executive Secretary IOC.

Financial implications:
Work by correspondence mainly; if any meeting, participation at national expense; service of potential meeting, including relevant interpretations if required, at IOC expense.